

We claim:

1. A system for obtaining informed consent from a patient undergoing a surgery, comprising:

a visual representation of the surgery;

an auditory component integral with the visual representation, the audio

5 component comprising a narration explaining the visual representation of the surgery;

a textual component integral with the graphic representation and the auditory component, the textual component comprising a summary of each complication associated with the surgery; and

input means for inputting an acknowledgment of each complication.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the visual representation is three-dimensional.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the textual component further comprises means for identifying a complication about which the patient desires further information.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the input means further comprises means for identifying each complication which the patient encountered during the surgery, and wherein the system further comprises outcome determination means for determining an outcome of the surgery based on the identified complications.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the system is web-based.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the system is available twenty-four hours a day.

FOR PUBLICATION

7. The system of claim 1, further comprising storage means for electronically storing the patient's acknowledgment of each complication.

8. A system for obtaining informed consent from a patient undergoing a surgery, comprising:

a three-dimensional visual representation of the surgery;

an auditory component integral with the visual representation;

5 a textual component integral with the visual representation and the auditory component, the textual component comprising a summary of each complication associated with the surgery.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the textual component further comprises means for identifying a complication about which the patient desires further information.

10. The system of claim 8, further comprising input means for inputting an acknowledgment of each complication.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the input means further comprises means for identifying each complication that the patient encountered during the surgery, and wherein the system further comprises outcome determination means for determining the outcome of the surgery based on the identified complication.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the system is web-based.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein the system is available twenty-four hours a day.

14. The system of claim 8, further comprising storage means for electronically storing the patient's acknowledgment of each complication.

15. A method of obtaining informed consent from a patient undergoing a surgery, comprising:

displaying the surgery visually to the patient;

providing narration to accompany the visually displayed surgery;

5 displaying a summary of each complication associated with the surgery;

and

requesting acknowledgment from the patient of each complication,

wherein the visual representation, the narration, the summary, and the acknowledgment request are integrally combined in a single informed consent system.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the surgery is visually displayed in a three-dimensional form.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of requesting identification of each complication encountered by the patient during the surgery so that an outcome of the surgery can be determined.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of requesting identification of each complication about which the patient desires further information.

19. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of electronically storing the patient's acknowledgment of each complication.

20. A method of obtaining informed consent from a patient undergoing a surgery, comprising:

displaying the surgery visually in a three-dimensional form to the patient;

providing narration to the patient to accompany the visual representation;

5 displaying a summary of each complication associated with the surgery;

and

requesting acknowledgement from the patient of each complication.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the surgery is displayed to the patient in a three dimensional form.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising requesting each complication about which the patient desires further information.

23. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of electronically storing the patient's acknowledgment of each complication.

FOR FURTHER